

## ONE OF THE BEACONS OF HISTORY.

The trial of Captain Alfred Dreyfus, which began yesterday at Rennes, is one of the towering landmarks in the jurisprudence of the world. Few state trials in all profane history have equalled it in profound significance—none has surpassed it. Compared with it the impeachment of Warren Hastings was an affair of a police court. Never since Louis XVI. stood in the hall of the convention to plead for his life have such tremendous issues hung upon a single legal proceeding.

### The Trial of Dreyfus.

First of all, Dreyfus himself is on trial. The world believes him the innocent victim of such monstrous injustice as Providence seldom permits to be perpetrated on a human being, but, innocent or guilty, it is certain that he has never had fair play until now, and the healthy human nature of the race revolts at persistent unfairness even to a criminal. Especially does it revolt when this injustice is accompanied by atrocious and malignant cruelty, not only to the immediate victim, but to a loving and devoted family. Sympathy for the man Dreyfus and his heroic wife is the first element in the dramatic power of the situation at Rennes.

### The Trial of Militarism Vs. Civil Power.

But that is the least of the things that make this trial memorable. In this proceeding is involved a struggle for supremacy between the military and the civil power, and the significance of this conflict is not confined to France. Throughout the whole continent of Europe the armies are absorbing in themselves the best energies of the nations, and, becoming self-conscious, are arrogating to themselves more and more of the power of governments. There have been times in the past when a Praetorian Guard has temporarily mastered a state, but never before has a whole civilized continent given itself up to arms in time of peace, and made its generals its rulers. The heads of the army in France have been testing their strength, and for a time they held the civil authorities in terror. Now, with the help of patriotic and disciplined officers in the army itself, the arrogance of militarism has been checked, and the present trial may bring about its entire suppression.

### The Trial of the Republican Form of Government.

Twenty-eight years after the fall of the last French monarchy, the Republic in France is still on trial. It is still beset by enemies and harassed by treachery among its own nominal supporters. Royalist intrigue has found in the Dreyfus iniquity the opportunity to raise its head. How deeply the army may be permeated with the spirit of disloyalty to the form of government nobody knows. If the disaffection is dangerous the result of this trial will show its extent. The conviction of Dreyfus will make it confident; his acquittal, desperate. All the enemies of the Republic have made anti-revision their rallying point. They

care nothing for Dreyfus in himself, but it is necessary for parties in France to "a bas" something, and he answers the purpose. And so the question whether Dreyfus can secure justice resolves itself into the question whether the Republic has strength enough to preserve its own existence.

### The Trial of Religious Hatred.

Added to all the other issues that make this affair less a trial than a civil war is the rancor of religion—a thing which in itself has upset governments and depopulated flourishing countries before now. Dreyfus is a Jew, and to the people who have never been able to rid themselves of the impression that the Jews of to-day are responsible for the crime of Calvary that is sufficient to justify his conviction of anything. The finding of the court will determine whether a member of an unpopular religious body can obtain justice in France.

### The Trial of Race Prejudice.

With religious hatred is combined hatred of race. Either is powerful enough without the other. Identity of race does not make the Christian Cretan love his Mohammedan compatriot. Identity of religion does not soften the feelings of the Californian toward the converted Chinaman. Dreyfus is not only of a different religion from his enemies, but he belongs to a race which by its successful practice of the commercial virtues has aroused against itself the envious spirit of greed. Poor, the Jews might be forgiven; prosperous, they are hated, and Dreyfus is persecuted because his co-religionists have made money.

### The Trial of Military Honor.

Finally, the innocence of Dreyfus involves the guilt of seven Ministers of War, and of an unknown number of the highest officers in the army, all of whom, on that assumption, have been guilty of an atrocious conspiracy, bolstered up by forgery, perjury and probably murder. Nobody knows how far this rottenness extends, and the thought of it, and of its meaning in relation to the national honor and the national defence, sends a chill down the back of every patriotic Frenchman.

\* \* \* \*

It is not strange that a trial on which such tremendous issues hang should be the only thing thought of in France, and the most conspicuous object of the world's attention. The Journal has made every effort to present the subject adequately to American readers. Messages from Dreyfus and his wife, from Clemenceau, the ablest representative of their side of the controversy, and Rochefort, the most brilliant member of the opposition, enable us to view the situation in all its aspects. The Journal, of course, assumes no responsibility for the views of any of these distinguished correspondents. It lets each tell his own story, and leaves its readers to judge among them.

#### A DISAPPEARING PROBLEM.

The lawsuit in which the Prudential Insurance Company is defending its right to discriminate against negroes in the matter of charges for insurance has an important bearing upon the race question in this country. There is no prejudice in the company's position. It is a simple matter of business. The rate of mortality among negroes is greater than among whites, and therefore it costs more to insure their lives.

Mr. Hoffman, the statistician of the Prudential Company, estimates the negro excess of mortality at 50 per cent. That it is very great has been a universally recognized fact for many years. It is especially marked in the cities, toward which the negroes, like the whites, are incessantly gravitating. The colored population of the great towns could not maintain itself if it were not constantly recruited from the country. Thus every city is a sink in which the natural increase of the negro race is drained away and lost.

If these tendencies continue the colored population of the whole country, with no immigration to reinforce it, will cease to increase, and then will begin to decline. It will gradually be supplanted by the increasing white race, as is even now happening in Louisiana, where the influx of Italians has given white majorities to several parishes that were formerly heavily black. And then the philosophers who have been exploiting the direful possibilities of the "race problem" will have an opportunity to be troubled over something else.

#### FIX THE WHOLE RESPONSIBILITY.

Motorman George Hamilton has been arrested, charged with responsibility for the Connecticut trolley disaster, in which thirty people were killed.

That is right. There is evidence that Hamilton ran the car down a steep grade at a tremendous rate of speed; also that when he discovered something was wrong, instead of turning off the power and applying the brake, he jumped from the car and secured his own safety at the expense of the lives of the passengers.

Yet, while Hamilton should be held accountable for his full share of guilt, it must not be overlooked that had the guard rails of the bridge been of a proper height and strength, the car, when thrown off the track, could not have fallen into the chasm. Nor would the car have left the track at all if there had been no defects in the construction of the roadbed. It is acknowledged that the line, which was opened only last Thursday, was hastily built. Speed seems to have been put before security in its construction.

The corporation will doubtless spare no effort to shift all the blame from itself to Hamilton. Justice, however, demands that the matter be carefully sifted, and all who are responsible for this horrible sacrifice of human life be held strictly to account.

#### A NEW SHADOW ON THE STOCK MARKET.

For the first time an automobile company has appeared in violent opposition to and competition with a trolley company. The automobile company urges these advantages for its method:

First—Automobiles require no tracks, so the streets need not be torn up. On the contrary, their heavy rubber wheels positively improve the streets.

Second—Automobiles can run to the curb for passengers to alight—a distinct advantage on rainy days.

The collision between the two companies will take place at the meeting of the Morris County (N. J.) Board of Freeholders this week.

The Morris County Trolley Company wants a franchise over the roads of the county to emulate. Unfortunately, most of us even but with the sweet reasonable character yet do not know enough of him. We do not

blacked cent for it."

On the other hand, an automobile company has been organized, with a paid up capital of \$25,000, which proposes to buy ten horseless vehicles, each to carry sixteen persons, and to run at regular intervals, giving a cheap and effective service.

Moral—It is not worth while for a man with a little money to invest funds just now in surface railroad stocks. Car tracks may be less valuable before long than they have seemed to be hitherto.

#### NOT CONGENIAL FOR ASTOR.

The Duke of Fife, a son-in-law of the Prince of Wales, has in the last twenty years disposed of a large part of the landed estates which came to him by inheritance. He has not done this to obtain means to gratify expensive tastes, but as a matter of principle.

He has always held the opinion that no man could do justice to thousands of tenants scattered over widely separated estates. Acting in accordance with this idea he has sold much of his property, retaining only a moderate acreage.

The Duke of Fife is more democratic in his views than many Americans. In our Western States single individuals own millions of acres, and hold the land away from the thousands and hundreds of thousands of people who should possess and cultivate it. This tendency to concentrate ownership of property in the hands of a few is injurious to the welfare of the people.

The Duke says: "It is far better for the district and for all concerned that the land should be largely in the hands of farmers and of small proprietors rather than in the control of one individual, who could pay his tenants only occasional visits."

It is certainly better that a man should own instead of renting land or home. One of the most deplorable results of present social conditions is that the United States is steadily changing from a nation of owners into a nation of tenants.

The Duke of Fife deserves great praise for the course he has pursued. He has used his wealth in a way that will benefit and strengthen his country.

#### HEROES OF HISTORY.

What man in history would you hold up as an example for your children to emulate?

One well-known feminine writer responds: "The world knows not them with heroes; they are few and far between." And this in the land of Dreyfus, Picquart and Zola!

Heroic acts are performed during every rotation of the earth on its axis. But the heroes are unknown or receive a merely ephemeral reputation through the newspapers. Hardly a great fire occurs in the United States when some fireman or policeman does not risk his life to save that of others.

And that is a true definition of a hero: The person who deliberately risks his life for the welfare of his fellow men or of his country. Another French woman writes: "I have not yet found my ideal of masculine perfection in history."

We pity that woman.

The answers, of course, as a rule give the names only of Frenchmen. For Frenchmen really know little and care little either for the geography or for the history of other countries.

But one is an exception; he holds up George Washington as the perfect personification of manhood.

Indeed, we Americans have a right to be proud of George Washington; he really can be held up as "an example for our children to emulate." Unfortunately, most of us even but with the sweet reasonable character yet do not know enough of him. We do not

know sufficiently of the trials he endured during his second Presidential term, from 1793 to 1797, from the quarrels between our English and French factions. He really saved our present constitutional form of government from destruction.

But we have other historical heroes, scarcely only to him.

There is Abraham Lincoln, who deliberately risked his life and at last sacrificed it for the welfare of his country.

There are Admiral Dewey and the men who followed him, who a little more than a year ago deliberately risked their lives in the mine-infested Manila Bay for the glory of their country.

There is Farragut at New Orleans and Mobile; there is Cushing; there is Decatur.

And among the heroes of peace there is John Quincy Adams, who met his death in the halls of Congress in an almost single-handed struggle with the slave power.

All these Americans, and many more, are historical characters fit to be examples to our children.

#### How Germany Arbitrates Labor Troubles.

Editor of the Journal: Something should be done to protect laborers and employes against the arbitrary trust and corporation tyranny and despotism. Strikes, the last resort of the downtrodden masses, are of no avail and furnish in most cases no relief. The millionaire trusts fix wages at hunger prices and extend working hours ad libitum. No court, no government furnishes help. The desperation of our suffering strikers in Cleveland will necessarily lead to bloodshed and misery. We must prevent it. Let the Journal, which has so often championed the cause of the poor, instruct Congress to find some authority to protect labor and force the trusts to do the fair thing to the poor and helpless. Our land will be ruined if we permit the money power to do with the workingmen whatever they think proper.

Some years ago there was a strike in Germany among the Westphalia coal miners. The operators wanted to reduce wages, and, afraid of the miners, asked for military protection. Now there are a great many soldiers in Germany; in fact, a great many more than in America. Some thousands could have been easily sent (as in Hazleton and other places in America) to shoot down the strikers. But what did the German Government do? Did it send the soldiers to shoot down the strikers and assist the mine owners to increase their profits by lowering the wages of the men?

No; the German Emperor did no such thing. He selected some high officials, not soldiers, all experts, who compelled the mine owners to carefully and calculating the expenditures and income of the mine owners, these officials found that the profits were ample to pay the old wages without any reduction, and the mine owners were told that they could not have any soldiers. Washington, D. C. FRED SCHADE.

#### A Suggestion from the President of the United Christian Workers.

Editor New York Journal: Referring to the remarks of Mr. W. Ferguson, who spoke at Prohibition Park, S. L., last Sunday, I would just like to say a few words. That one sentence published in your paper contains volumes. The words "and all the churches of the city of New York say less about human brotherhood, the real gospel of Christ, than does the New York Journal in the course of a week" are very weighty indeed. I would just like to ask if it would not be interesting to have the comparison made. Not only the good accomplished for the suffering poor and in the interest of the "real gospel of Christ," but the cost. The Journal compared with the Church and charitable institutions. I think we will find that the Journal will come out on top and give as a reason for this it never fails to practice what it preaches.

C. HAROLD O'BRIEN. National Headquarters United Christian Workers, Washington.

#### Wants Dewey as President.

To the Editor of the Journal: Is the following definition of patriot a correct one?

"A human being who is willing to sacrifice his own desire for the good of the people of his country."

If so, it is not the duty of Admiral Dewey to accept the office of President when tendered to him by the people of the United States, irrespective of parties, and help the people throw off the bonds of the corruptionists who, through puppets whom they own body and soul, now rule us? Each Presidential election offers us the choice between the devil and the deep blue sea. We chose the former last time, and I for one would like the chance to vote for a man who is not a slave to party bosses or his own political ambition. C. L. HICKS.

#### ELIHU ROOT, PROFESSOR GARNER OF POLITICS.



Studying the Curious Tribe of Military Apes Found in the McKinley Jungle.

#### A Christian Science Miracle.

Editor of the New York Journal: In your edition of this morning you make reference to the effect of mind over matter in a very interesting editorial, submitting the statement that no cure has ever been wrought by Christian Scientists where the malady had taken the form of afflictions or deformities of bones, etc. Knowing that you are interested in the publishing of facts and truth in all matters, I would beg the space to correct this misunderstanding on the part of your writer. This article is submitted, not by a Christian Scientist or by a supporter or believer in the efficacy of such treatments, but by a lover of truth.

In a western Pennsylvania town, where the writer was raised, there lived a young lady with a deformed hip. All the leading hospitals and specialists on the Atlantic seaboard had pronounced the case incurable. The lady had never walked without a cane and usually used both cane and crutch. In 1892 or 1893 the lady was persuaded by some friends in Altoona to allow a Christian Scientist to visit her. She consented. He talked with her for a short time. Then arising from beside the bed, where she had been confined for several weeks with this trouble, he advised her to take her crutches (at this time she was using two crutches), throw them from the room and never see them again. This she did, and to the present is able to walk as far and strongly as the ordinary woman, although she is yet afflicted by a slight lameness. The writer has enjoyed long walks with the lady since her wonderful cure, and knows her to be not a weak and sentimental woman, who was professionally an invalid. The explanation, of course, is the same. Had she had faith sufficient in herself she would have accomplished the same

result. Granted. But she did not have. All the prominent doctors of our country had failed to inspire the confidence or faith, and it remained to be excited into life by the hypnotism, if you please, of the so-called "Christian Scientist." But with such an experience, whatever the explanation, is it wonderful that she is a firm believer in the doctrines propounded by the followers of that faith? New York, Aug. 2, 1899. J. M. B.

#### A Soldier Wants Letters from Home.

Editor of the New York Journal: Kindly oblige a soldier who is far away from his loving home and native city (New York) by informing my relatives through your paper that I am ever so anxious to hear from them, as it makes a soldier so far away from his native home feel downhearted not to hear from his beloved relatives and friends. Thanking you kindly and hoping you will not disappoint me—which I know you will not—I remain a defender of our glorious flag and country and am ready and contented whenever my services are needed for my country. I am a sincere and earnest admirer of your glorious and patriotic paper. Prosperity be with the American New York Journal. PRIVATE JOHN J. DORAN, Company M, Thirtieth United States Infantry, Manila, P. I., June 25, 1899.

#### Pensions for Old Firemen.

To the Editor of the Journal: It is praiseworthy and characteristic of the Journal to advocate the cause of the needy. In relation to the matter of the employment of old men, I suggest that you turn your attention to a class of such who in the past have bravely and faithfully served the public, and most of whom are to

day in indigent circumstances. I refer to the members of the old volunteer fire department of this city. If any class deserve pensions they do, and do you not think that the Legislature ought to pass an act to give these faithful old servants, who in their time served without remuneration, a small sum, say \$25 monthly? The present force, who face no greater dangers and receive ample salaries, are pensioned at quite liberal compensation. EDWIN ESTE, No. 128 West Sixty-sixth street.

#### Alger's Unnecessary Dream.

Editor of the New York Journal: It has been suggested, apropos of Mr. Alger's statement that the idea of transporting the Spanish prisoners to Spain came to him as if in a dream, that he would not have needed to dream if he had looked up the proceedings relative to Burgoyne's surrender. A free passage home was granted to Burgoyne's army on condition of not serving again in North America during the Revolution. Congress, after refusing at first to approve this arrangement, eventually accepted it and transported the 5,790 prisoners to England. W. G. R.

#### Last Argument Gone.

"Admitting all you say as to the good qualities of asphalt pavements, such as their smoothness, noiselessness, durability, cleanliness and wholesomeness from a sanitary point of view," said the Street Commissioner, "it is still true that in wet weather such pavements are slippery and frequently cause horses to fall and injure themselves. How do you dispose of that objection?" "We expect to dispose of that," answered the paving contractor, "by abolishing the horse."—Chicago Tribune.